



# GEORGETOWN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

**"promoting natural resources conservation through the use of public notification, conservation education,  
sound technical information, and direct personal assistance."**

## DISTRICT NEWS

### Our Commissioners



The Georgetown Conservation District Board of Commissioners proudly serves Georgetown County by promoting conservation awareness. We endeavor to stay informed with new ideas in conservation and implement them whenever possible. We strive to protect the water, air and land and keep them clean and safe. We continue to address many issues related to the natural resources and conservation in Georgetown County. We thank our affiliate members and partners who help us in that battle. In 2013 we sponsored many programs, projects and workshops for the landowners and students of Georgetown County. We appreciate everyone who has assisted us in our efforts. Working together, we can make a difference.

Pictured left to right: Wayne Avant, Chairman Mickey Lankford, Mark Johnson, Peggy Williams, Nathaniel Ruth, Kenny Williams and Truitt Owens. Not pictured: Elery Little

### No-Till Grain Drills

The District has two no-till grain drills for rent. Along with the UFT Grain Drill, that is used for planting pastures, the District has a Great Plains 10' Grain Drill that can be rented for planting cropland. Both drills are located at the Munnerlyn Farm in the Rose Hill Section of Georgetown County. Rental Fees are \$7.00 per acre for the UFT Drill and \$9.00 per acre for the John Deere Drill. Call the District Office at 546-7808 ext. 3 for more information. During 2013 the drills planted over 900 acres for local farmers.



### Pee Dee Area Meeting

The 2013 Pee Dee Area Meeting was hosted by the Darlington Soil and Water Conservation District in October. Tours were given of the Green Energy Solutions Methane Biogasification Facility where they received great information on methane being used to produce electricity. They toured historical Kalmia Gardens, a 35 acre public botanical gardens and historic house and the Coker Pedigreed Seed Museum where the first cotton breeding program in the US was developed. Georgetown Commissioners Wayne Avant, Peggy Williams and Truitt Owens attended the business meetings and tour.

### AMI Kids Garden

The Conservation District partnered with the AMI Kids of Georgetown in 2013 to help the students plant a garden on the school grounds. The District provided gardening equipment and plants to help the students plant their own garden. The students were responsible for planting and maintaining the garden. It is a great learning experience for them, many of which have never grown vegetables before. The AMI Kids School provides education and essential life skills for kids who have been on the wrong path and need a helping hand for that first step in the right direction. It gives the students help in becoming responsible and productive citizens.



### Meetings

The Georgetown Conservation District Board of Commissioners meets on the third Monday of each month. The meetings are held at 11:00 a.m. in the conference room of the USDA Service Center at 1837 North Fraser Street. The public is invited to attend. For more information, please call the District office at 843-564-7808 ext. 3.

You can access District Information on the internet at [www.gswcd.com](http://www.gswcd.com).



## Beach Sweep/ Creek Sweep

The 25<sup>th</sup> annual Beach Creek/Creek Sweep was held on Saturday, September 21. It is South Carolina's largest one-day litter cleanup of beaches, marshes and waterways. The Pawleys Island area had 50 volunteers participating who collected 800 pounds of trash. They collected 530 cigarette butts, 250 plastic beverage bottles, 50 glass bottles, and 200 cans. 75 pounds of glass, plastic and aluminum were recycled.

## Goat Management Seminar

On February 19, 2013 an informal meeting was held for current goat owners and anyone interested in starting a goat operation. Hosted by Tom Tanner, the participants received information from Lee Van Vlakte, the Clemson Extension Area Livestock and Forages Agent of the Pee Dee Region about "Getting your pastures ready for the summer grazing season" Local goat owners were invited to attend.



# EDUCATION

## Essay Contest

The Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District held its annual Essay Contest. The contest was open to all sixth grade students. The topic of the contest was "Where Does Your Watershed". The students' essays researched information about our watershed, what effects we have on our watershed and the ways we can protect it. The winners of this year's competition receiving a certificate and cash prize were (left to right): Morgan Bradshaw - 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Cindy Ciuba – the Teacher who submitted the Most Essays and Caroline Lankford – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place.



## Photography Contest



Each year the Georgetown Conservation District sponsors their annual Photography Contest. Many amazing photos were received from the students. The 2013 winners in each category were: **Landscapes** – Macie Griffin **Native Wildlife** – Jordan Commander **Rural Life** – Dillon Lambert **Trees and Plants** – Courtney Moon. All of this year's winners are students in Ms. Barbara Player's class at Rosemary Middle School in Andrews. District Commissioner Nathaniel Ruth visited the school to present the winners with their cash awards and certificates. All seventh grade students are eligible to enter. Honorable Mention went to Ronnahria Smith, Tyler Thomas, Timothy Wilson and Ashley Danielle Evans.

## Camp Wildwood

[Camp Wildwood](#) is a high energy hands on, outdoor environmental camp for 10th through 12th grade students and was held June 17 – 23 at Kings Mountain State Park. At Camp Wildwood, students acquire the knowledge and appreciation needed to protect and wisely use our natural resources.

Camp Wildwood helps young adults grow by providing a supervised, positive environment that has safety as a primary commitment. Wildwood encourages self-reliance, self-discipline and independence in an outdoor setting.

Self-confidence is built through cooperative relationships with adults and peers. It is also a place to learn about the diversity of our natural resources and the variety of career choices within the environmental field.

Daily activities include instruction in fisheries, forestry, firearm safety, orienteering, first aid, soils and wildlife. The hands on classes are conducted outdoors by professional resource staff members. Afternoon activities include sports such as softball, swimming and volleyball. Dances, campfires and skit night are some of the most popular evening activities.

If you know someone that would benefit and enjoy Wildwood, please contact Camp Coordinator Dan DuPre at (803) 609-1072 or email [dupred@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:dupred@dnr.sc.gov)



## Scholarships

Scholarships were given to 6 students in 2013 from Horry Georgetown Technical College. These students were second semester students in the field of natural resources or conservation. They were chosen from among many applicants. The winners were: Philip Ryan Frandino, Charles Leonce Kennedy, Jacquelyn L. Taylor, Mary Carol Bartha, Mike Duncan and James Jason Blackmon These students exhibit incredible dedication and hard work in their chosen fields. The District is proud to recognize their efforts for the protection and preservation of our natural resources. Congratulations to all of the winners.

## FFA Competition

In February, the District helped sponsor the FFA Wildlife Career Development Competition which hosted over 200 students from around the state. The competition is among the most scientifically challenging of all the events conducted by the SC FFA Organization. Preparation requires considerable study and practice in the classroom and outdoor settings. The event was conducted by faculty of the Forestry Management Technology Program of Horry-Georgetown Technical College. FFA teams from 30 high schools in South Carolina competed for the title of State Champion. Students earned the opportunity to demonstrate their technical and management skills as related to wildlife, habitat and harvesting regulations. Their knowledge was tested through a written exam, plant, animal and equipment identification stations, and a team activity related to wildlife.



## Youth Workshop



Caleb Justice, AJ Poston  
& Matthew Justice

Three local high school students represented the Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District at the 2013 Conservation Districts Youth Workshop held in June at Lander University. Caleb Justice, A J Poston and Mathew Justice all attended the week long camp. Mathew Justice received the Calvin Neil Bartley Scholarship for his outstanding performance on the workshop assessments. The students received useful information about soils, farming, forestry, geology, reptiles, and conservation. They enjoyed numerous activities including canoeing, a high ropes course, a lumberjack race, fishing, archery, hiking and science experiments. The participants were presented information on the many job opportunities available in the fields of agriculture and conservation which influenced the career paths of many of the students. Each year the Georgetown Conservation District sends students to attend the Youth Workshop by covering all costs for

attending. Students in grades 9 – 12 who are interested in attending the camp can contact the Conservation District office at 546-7808 ext. 104.

## SC Commissioner's School for Agriculture

The Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored local student Mason Owens to attend the South Carolina Commissioner's School for Agriculture in 2013. The South Carolina Commissioner's School for Agriculture is an academic summer program coordinated by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture & Clemson University's College of Agriculture, Forestry & Life Sciences. It is a week-long program held on Clemson University's campus. Participants are students entering their junior and senior years of high school. These students are interested in pursuing careers related to agriculture and natural resources. Their week was busy with hands-on scientific exploration, workshops related to academic integrity, teamwork, personal growth, leadership and exciting field and lab based experiences. Students interested in applying to attend should go to <http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/sccsa/> for an application and information.



## Just Water?

Do you know what you are drinking? Have you ever wondered what kind of water to purchase? Not all bottled water is the same. Water used to be a plain and simple drink that came from the tap. Today, there are dizzying arrays of bottled water products that fill the grocery shelves. But what are the differences between all the various brands and types of water you can buy? The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates the way bottled water is described, and the terms are based on either the source of the water or how it has been processed.

So be sure to check the label before you drink.

**Artesian Well Water** – comes from a confined, underground water source.

**Well Water** – It is brought to the surface by pumps from an aquifer (a water-bearing rock or soil formation located underground)

**Distilled Water** – It is water that has been evaporated and allowed to condense, which removes all minerals and contaminants.

**Drinking Water** – This is tap water that has been filtered and disinfected by water treatment plants.

**Natural Mineral Water** – Contains only the minerals present in the water as it flows from the ground. Mineral water not labeled "natural" may have had minerals added or removed.

**Sparkling Water** – This is any water that contains naturally occurring or added carbon dioxide. Many brands of mineral water, spring water and other bottled waters are marketed as sparkling water. Sparkling water is considered a soft drink and is not regulated as bottled water.

**Spring Water** – It comes from an underground source from which water flows naturally to the surface. It must be collected only at a spring. Natural spring water is enriched by minerals from the rocks through which it flows.



# CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program** - EQIP offers cost share for implementing conservation practices which help with water quality, soil health, water conservation, and livestock management. Practices include, but are not limited to: conservation tillage, nutrient management, cover crops, livestock water, fencing and pasture management. Assistance is also available to specialty crop producers including vegetables.

In 2013 funding was approved for 18 new contracts covering 3,330 acres.

**Wetland Reserve Program** – In 2013, 664 acres of wetlands were permanently protected. The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on private lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The program provides an opportunity for landowners to receive financial incentives to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands.

**Conservation Stewardship Program** - CSP offers incentives based on current conservation activities and accomplishments and also requires producers to enhance their operations with additional conservation practices to improve and protect natural resources, predominately soil and water quality, and forest wildlife habitat benefits for cropland, pasture, and forestland. Currently Georgetown has 30 active contracts covering 29,872 acres.

**District Grants** – The Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District continued with the administration of 2 grants from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. They were for the treatment of Beach Vitex and Water Hyacinth.

Beach Vitex, called the “Kudzu of the Coast” thrives in the sand dune area of the beach where it impacts native species as well as sea turtle nesting sites. Over the course of 3 years approximately 170 sites were treated, the project was completed in 2013.

Water Hyacinth is free floating fresh water invasive that forms dense colonies and encroaches and crowds native plant species as well as affecting wildlife habitat. Approximately 189 acres were treated over the 3 year period. The project was completed in 2013.

**Pawleys Creek 319 Water Quality Project** – The Conservation District and NRCS partnered with Georgetown County Storm Water and the Parks and Recreation Division to add water quality practices to the new parks being constructed in the Pawleys Creek watershed. Pervious concrete was installed in place of asphalt on a walking path and also in portions of the parking areas in 3 parks – Retreat, Stables and Waccamaw Regional. Pervious concrete allows water to filter through it into the ground during storm events instead of directly running off as it does with asphalt and other impervious surfaces. It is another way to protect wetlands though improved water quality.

## Georgetown Conservation District Commissioners

Mickey D. Lankford, Jr., Chairman

Mark Johnson, Vice Chairman

Peggy Williams, Sec./Treasurer

Wayne Avant

Nathaniel Ruth

## Associate Commissioners

Elery L. Little

Kenny Williams

Truitt Owens

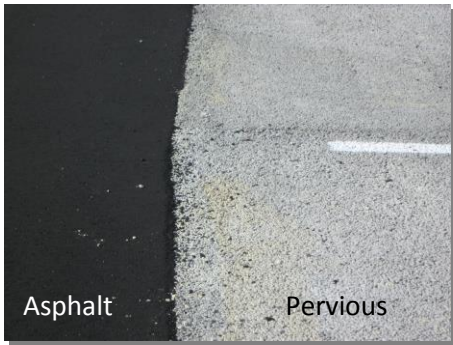
## Staff

Denise Smith, District Coordinator

Debbie Mann, District Conservationist, NRCS



# Our Year in Pictures





## ***Our 2013 Affiliate Members***

The Georgetown Soil & Water Conservation District would like to recognize our Affiliate Members who are a vital part of our conservation team. Without the monetary support given by the Affiliates, we would not be able to carry out the many programs to promote conservation stewardship within the county. The Conservation District is committed to helping the landowners and educating the students of Georgetown County. **Thank you Affiliates.**

### **Regular Membership**

Kyle Daniel  
W. Sherwyn Jacobs, ATT.  
Lonnie & Debra Creel  
Samuel O. Cribb  
Floyd & Joyce Tyler  
Harry J. Butler Jr.  
Rubeth Earl & Patsy Williams  
Capps Farm  
Fred R. Powell, Sr.  
Gray Land at Pawley's Island  
E. C. McGregor Boyle  
Black River Plantation LP  
Martin Owens  
Helen Madden  
Truitt Owens  
Bob Cribb

### **Supporting Membership**

H. E. Hemingway  
Sammy Squires  
Steve Squires  
Herbert J. Butler  
Bunny & Bob Hughes  
Legrand Owens  
F. Preston Wilson

### **Supporting Membership**

Anne Forrester  
Meher Spiritual Center Inc.  
H. E. Hemingway Jr. CPA

### **Sustaining Membership**

Mossdale Plantation  
Smith Ragsdale  
Bob Roberts  
Robert L. Lumpkin, Jr., P.C.  
Santee Cooper  
The Belle W. Baruch Foundation  
Charles Ingram Lumber Co., Inc.  
Anna Kate & Hayne Hipp  
Low Country Forest Products  
Dr. & Mrs Wallace Vaught – Hobonny Fields Farm  
Annandale Plantation  
Clermont Plantation  
Town of Pawleys Island

### **Endowing Membership**

Bordeaux-Clark Group Inc.  
Weehaw Plantation  
George & Eva Raftelis Foundation

1837 North Fraser Street  
Georgetown, SC 29440

